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the great idea of German unity is grasped and executed against enormous odds and difficulties by the masterful genius of Bismarck. "Germany since her Unification" is the closing lecture in the volume, and for the understanding of present day affairs the most vital. It is built on what precedes and should be read in connection with it.

The foreign policy under Bismarck and after, the development of the Dreibund and Triple Entente, Einkreisungspolitik and expansion, naturally assume the important place in this last chapter. Yet, most illuminating sections are the author's comparison between German collectivism and English individualism, social organization vs. competitive freedom, or his discussion of the antipodal nature of liberalism and democracy, or his comments on the love of order and will to organize inherent in the German people, as well as their satisfaction with less freedom and greater equality. Noteworthy also is the brief review given to the achievements of Modern Germany in chemical, medical and agricultural science, a section that might have been enlarged, for the most deeply impressive feature of Modern Germany is her scientific spirit applied to all conditions of life and their improvement.

For teachers the bibliography attached will afford a deeper penetration into the subject, and the eight appendices furnish facts for ready reference. Thus certain much discussed paragraphs of the German Constitution are provided, stating e. g. the powers of the Emperor, the suffrage provisions for Reichstag and Landtag, then the statistics generally needed concerning the German colonies, the historical facts concerning the Ems dispatch, the Polish question, and that of Alsace and Lorraine. Teachers will find Prof. Schevill's book indispensable, for it is in every way the best concise treatment of the subject.

ALBERT B. FAUST.

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Contes Divers, edited by Hélène J. Harvitt. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1917. 12 mo., 232 pp. 50 cents.

Contes Divers is the latest member of the Walter-Ballard series. As Miss Harvitt says in her preface, there is nothing novel in the choice of the stories, rather they are well-trying. They comprise Claretie's *Boum-Boum*, Daudet's *Chèvre de M. Sequin*, Lemaître's *Cloche*, Maupassant's *Mon Oncle Jules*, and *Aventure de Walter Schnaff*, Coppée's *Vices du Capitaine*, Sardou's *Obus*, Arène's *Haricots de Pitalogue* and Bazin's *Jument bleue*.

The questionnaires and especially the grammatical exercises founded on the tales are remarkably good, the latter really very ingenious. They should furnish an excellent review of grammar and they are well-graded. The book is carefully gotten out and the proof read with gratifying care. There might be a question of detail regarding the arrangement of the French explanations at the bottom of the page. Are they intended to have all the even numbers on the left and uneven on the right or the reverse? Or are they fitted in as they may be to economize space? P. 126 may be instanced. There notes 1 through 8 are on the left, 7 appears in solitary grandeur on the right. These notes are however so good that one need not cavil. The brief literary notes on

the life of the author whose work follows are to be commended. Students of all ages and grades cannot learn too soon that what they read is not "words, words, words," but literature.

Mount Holyoke College.

MARY V. YOUNG.

Colomba, edited by William W. Lamb. Scott, Foresman & Co., 1917. 353 pp. 96 cents.

It is refreshing to note occasionally in the modern stress of rapid reading of language texts, the now too infrequent plea for more intensive study of a foreign masterpiece. In Dr. Lamb's new edition of Prosper Mérimée's *Colomba*, the insistence is upon thoroughness. This work will consequently recommend itself to teachers with students at that stage in the acquisition of French when the study of formal grammar has ceased and a tendency to "slip" has begun to be noted. Such might be the case about the end of the second or the beginning of the third year in high school. The method of Dr. Lamb will scarcely appeal to teachers of college classes on account of their lack of time usually for so slow and intensive a procedure.

The editor has in the main divided his text into two page lessons with a set of material for drill work placed generally in the lower half of the second page. This material he subdivides into as many as eight parts:—I. a grammatical theme; II. a list of verb regimens; III. an exercise in the conversational use of one of these verbs; IV. a verb drill; V. a drill on syntax; VI. questions in French on the text; VII. a theme for free composition; VIII. material in English for translation into French.

It will be seen thus that the daily lessons are accompanied by abundant material for grammatical study in conjunction with the text. All eight subdivisions, however, are not found regularly in each lesson; some are omitted occasionally. As the notes on the text are extremely copious, the drill on the syntax (Exercise V) assumes an importance of major calibre. The author lays stress on the fact that, whatever the teacher may care to omit from the other seven exercises, this one should be retained in order that the maximum benefit be obtained from the study of the notes. Otherwise the student would utilize them merely for the elucidation of the text.

The text and accompanying exercises occupy the first 180 pages of the book. Then follow in order 75 pages of compactly printed notes full of suggestive material, a grammatical appendix of about twenty pages, several pages of useful verb regimens and idioms, and finally the vocabulary. A succinct account of Mérimée is given in the introduction. An excellent map of Corsica faces the first page of the text, and occasional cuts illustrate the text or give views of the island.

The physical make up of the book is excellent. The print is a trifle compact, but extremely legible. The text is unusually free from errors; the vocabulary, generally the one place where slovenly work manifests itself, is in Dr. Lamb's book prepared with care. But two misprints have been noted in the text: "capello" for "cappello" (p. 24) and the obvious "le chambre" for "la chambre" (p. 124).